

U.S. Department of State

Maghreb  
Entrepreneurship  
Delegation

October 27 –  
November 2

2011

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**Bios of Delegates - Tunisia**



## **Mustapha Baha**

*Angel Investor, Pasadena Angels*

*Founder and President, MDB Enterprises*

Mr. Baha has been an active angel investor in Los Angeles, California. As a director and member of the Pasadena Angels since 2005, he has acted as a coach, mentor and advisor for a number of startups. Mustapha invested in several startups and held board position dealing with strategy, operations, finance, and many other issues.

Pasadena Angels, Inc. aims to provide seed capital and long-term business relationship with startup companies that promise rapid growth and huge market potential. Pasadena Angels focuses primarily on technology-based venture and enterprises across Southern California.

Mr. Baha is the Founder and President of MDB Enterprises, a construction management consulting firm established in Pasadena in 1995. MDB Enterprises specializes in working with both public and private sector clients in the implementation of their capital improvement needs to include strategic planning, construction, and move management. MDB's public sector mandates have included significant projects within the education, healthcare, and private industries. Prior to founding MDB Enterprises, Mr. Baha was affiliated with Bechtel Corporation, Jacobs Engineering and JCM Group.

Mr. Baha received his Masters Degree in Construction Management from the University of Southern California and his Bachelor of Science in Engineering Degree from the Polytechnic School of Algiers.

Company Website: [www.pasadenaangels.com](http://www.pasadenaangels.com)  
[mdbenterprises.net](http://mdbenterprises.net)

## Lloyd Baroody

*Entrepreneur & Angel Investor*

Lloyd is an angel investor who focuses primarily in business-to-business (B2B) early stage companies. His main areas of business expertise are pharmaceuticals, biotech, and pharma R&D services.

Lloyd's functional areas of expertise are in general management (CEO and COO level), financial management, and marketing, including both B2B and consumer.



In the previous decade Lloyd ran a subsidiary of a public, Fortune 500 New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) company which he had previously co-founded and sold. He later resold it on behalf of new owner to a public, New Delhi-based, life sciences company and continued to run it as well as various Indian operations. Lloyd subsequently left and ran a small manufacturing and marketing company which sold mostly injection molded promotional items made in China to US pharmaceutical companies.

Since spring 2009, Lloyd has devoted most of his time to angel investing. While doing so, he actively mentors fledging entrepreneurs/companies regardless of whether he invests in them.

Lloyd received his BA in economics from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec in 1975 and then later his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1977.



## **Ghazi Benothman**

*Head of Asset Management, Malaz Capital*

Ghazi is currently Head of Asset Management and part of the venture investment team at Malaz Capital, the first CMA-licensed Venture Capital firm in Saudi Arabia. Ghazi brings more than 19 years of operational and investment experience in the technology industry, both in Silicon Valley and the MENA region. Most recently, he was Sr. Director of Corporate Development at ROVI. Prior to that, he held other investment roles including General Partner at Minah Ventures, Senior Associate Partner at Crosslink Capital and Equity Analyst at Deutsche Bank. On the operating front, Ghazi held corporate strategy & business development positions at Dell Computer and Motorola for several years.

In addition to this investor role, Ghazi served as President and co-founder of TechWadi, the leading professional association of Arab American technology executives. Ghazi also enjoys advising and mentoring emerging Arab entrepreneurs looking to launch their first technology startup. Ghazi received his Masters in Computer Engineering from USC.

Company Website: [www.malazcapital.com](http://www.malazcapital.com)

## Ahmad Chebbani

*Co-founder, American Arab Chamber of Commerce  
Tech Town Detroit Incubator, Wayne State University*



When it comes to the world of business, Ahmad Chebbani is a businessman who started his own successful firm and then under his leadership co-founded one of the most recognized ethnic chambers of commerce in the United States—the American Arab Chamber of Commerce (AACC). The AACC is an organization he co-founded in 1992 in order to empower other American Arab business owners. Ahmad Chebbani served as Chairman of the AACC from 1998-2006 and was recently re-elected to serve again as Chairman of the Board. Today the AACC has a membership of over 1,300 companies ranging from small businesses to multinational corporations and executive professionals.

Mr. Chebbani came to America at the age of 19 from his birth country of Lebanon. With the responsibility of his younger brother, the two arrived in Chicago knowing no English. They worked as busboys and attendants in service stations until they learned their new country's language and her ways. And in the process, they adopted her culture and even her hopes and dreams. While working a full-time job, he did tax work for individuals and small business owners in the evenings and on the weekends.

Mr. Chebbani is Chairman and co-founder of the American Middle East Economic Affairs Committee (AMEEAC), which organizes the US-Arab Economic Forum (USAEF). Since USAEF's inception in 2002, Mr. Chebbani's leadership led to three internationally successful Forums in 2003, 2006 and 2008 that brought together the top decision makers and business people from the Arab world and the United States to create economic and personal ties that will lead to a more economically stable and peaceful region. Ahmad is frequently a host to foreign national visitors from across the globe as they look to engage Detroit as an economic hub between the U.S. and the Middle East in business partnership. Ahmad's lifelong advocacy on behalf of Arab-American entrepreneurs, domestically and internationally, has been top priority in his business practice.

Whether it is assisting CEOs across the globe or neighbors across the street, Ahmad Chebbani is called on by world leaders and friends to create links and find solutions to complex social, economic, and regional problems.



## Ahmed el Alfi

*Founder & Chairman, Sawari Ventures, LLC*

Ahmed El Alfi has been a private investor since 1990. He is the founder and partner of Hybrid Capital Partners, a private investment partnership. During 2006, he served as CEO of EFG Private Equity. His current international portfolio includes Strom Magallon Entertainment, a producer of interactive entertainment media, Internet Brands, a leading operator of eCommerce and community websites, Connexus/Epic, the premier online performance-driven marketing platform and ALZWAD for Economic Development, a MENA-based mobile services, retail management and distribution services company.

Other portfolio companies he has funded include PC Mall, a \$1 billion rapid response supplier of technology services for businesses, governments and consumers, ATM Lenders, an owner and operator of over 1,000 ATMs, Banquet, an extreme sports portal and community site, Hospitality Marketing Concepts, a leading provider of club membership programs for four and five star hotels and Interactive Audio Education Dubai, maker of Islamic education devices. He has also served as either Executive Chairman or CEO at the following companies: Alfigen, a genetic diagnostic company, Broadband Sports, a social media and video sharing website focused on sports, and Insureon.com, an online insurance exchange. He has extensive experience in creating and nurturing early-stage companies, as well as structuring international M&A transactions. Prior to becoming a private investor in 1990, he was Senior Vice President of Jefferies & Company, where he worked for 10 years. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Al Borg Laboratories. He has also served on the Boards of the Polytechnic School in Pasadena, Claremont Graduate School of Religion and Waqf Endowment Fund, as well as several for profit corporate boards.

Company Website: [www.sawariventures.com](http://www.sawariventures.com)

## Usama Fayyad

*Executive Chairman, Oasis 500*

Usama Fayyad is the Executive Chairman of Oasis 500, a regional early-stage fund and entrepreneurship initiative based in Jordan. Oasis aims to create an early-stage/angel stage investment base in the region along with funding up to 500 start-ups in technology (ICT and interactive media focus). He is also Chairman of d1g.com, a new generation Internet community and rich media content sharing site focused on Arabic speaking online audiences. In the U.S. he is CEO of Open Insights, LLC, a data strategy, technology and consulting firm he founded to help enterprises understand data strategy and deploy data-driven solutions that grow revenue and create competitive advantages.



Until September 2008, he was Yahoo!'s chief data officer and EVP of Research & Strategic Data Solutions. The industry's first chief data officer, he was responsible for Yahoo!'s global data strategy, architecting Yahoo!'s data policies and systems, prioritizing data investments, and managing the company's data analytics and data processing infrastructure. He also founded and managed the Yahoo! Research organization, which develops the new sciences of the Internet, on-line marketing, and innovative interactive applications.

Prior to joining Yahoo!, Fayyad co-founded and led the DMX Group, a data mining and data strategy consulting and technology company that was acquired by Yahoo! in 2004. In early 2000, he co-founded and served as CEO of digiMine Inc, a data analysis and data mining company that built, operated and hosted data warehouses and web analytics for some of the world's largest enterprises in online publishing, retail, manufacturing, telecommunications and financial services. Fayyad's professional experience also includes five years spent leading the data mining and exploration group at Microsoft Research and building the data mining products for Microsoft's server division. From 1989 to 1996 Fayyad held a leadership role at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), where his work in the exploration and analysis of scientific databases gathered from observatories, remote-sensing platforms and spacecraft garnered him the top research excellence award that Caltech awards to JPL scientists, as well as a U.S. Government medal from NASA.

Fayyad earned his Ph.D. in engineering from the University of Michigan (1991), he also holds BSEs in both electrical and computer engineering (1984); MSE in computer science and engineering (1986); and M.Sc. in mathematics (1989). He has published over 100 technical articles in the fields of data mining and Artificial Intelligence, is a Fellow of the Association for Advancement of Artificial Intelligence and a Fellow of the ACM Association of Computing Machinery, and he has edited two influential books on data mining. He launched and served as editor-in-chief of both the primary scientific journal in the data mining field (Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery) and the primary newsletter in the technical community (SIGKDD Explorations). Usama holds over 25 patents in Information Technology.

Company Website: [www.oasis500.net](http://www.oasis500.net)



## Craig Hanson

*Partner, Next World Capital*

Craig has extensive experience in venture capital, entrepreneurship, and emerging company management, with a focus on technology. He has been an investor or senior executive in 18 venture-backed companies. Craig is a Partner with Next World Capital (NWC), an international venture capital firm where he leads the firm's investment efforts in the U.S. and overseas. NWC invests out of a \$200 million fund allocation and is part of a much larger evergreen capital base, giving the firm substantial resources to partner with promising entrepreneurs. NWC invests in emerging and growth-stage companies internationally, and works closely with entrepreneurs to mentor them on building innovative, global leadership companies.

Prior to co-founding NWC's venture capital group, Craig was a Vice President with FTV Capital, a growth-stage venture capital firm with \$1 billion under management investing in software and business services companies worldwide. He was also a Principal at Vista Ventures, an early-stage technology venture capital firm, and a Vice President at Berenson Minella & Company, where he worked on large growth capital and buyout investments, as well as completed several acquisitions and financings. He has also been the CFO of a venture-backed technology company, and began his career with Credit Suisse First Boston.

Craig also conducts independent research and analysis of program ideas at the confluence of economic development and foreign policy. He has been exploring economic development programs to foster entrepreneurship and innovation as an important economic engine and integral part of U.S. foreign policy. He is the Chair of the Silicon Valley Leadership Committee of Nuru International, a social innovation non-profit providing economic development and agriculture programs to fight extreme poverty in Africa. Craig is a Truman Security Fellow with the Truman National Security Project. In 2011 Craig was named one of the top 40 Under 40 Leaders nationally by the New Leaders Council. He graduated from Carleton College and the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he was a Sloan Fellow and President of his class.

Company Website: [www.nextworldcap.com](http://www.nextworldcap.com)



## Joanna Harries

*Director of International Expansion, Endeavor*

Joanna Harries is the Director of International Expansion at Endeavor, an international nonprofit that works to establish High-Impact Entrepreneurship as the leading force for sustainable & inclusive economic development and job creation.



Joanna was hired to lead Endeavor's expansion in the Middle East, and North Africa. She is responsible for the recent launch of Endeavor Lebanon, and continues as a member of the in-country board of directors. Today, Joanna is actively pursuing growth for Endeavor in Saudi Arabia & the Maghreb with a goal to accelerate Endeavor's regional and global impact.

Joanna joined Endeavor's global team in January, 2010. Prior to Endeavor, Joanna spent seven years at Unilever in brand management and sales, across multiple geographies. She was awarded an Acumen Fund Fellowship in 2009, and spent a year in Mumbai working on market access for a growing social enterprise delivering affordable Emergency Medical Services. Joanna has worked in North America, China, India, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE. She earned her B.B.A. (2003, highest honors), and MBA (2008) from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Canada.

A proud Canadian & native of Toronto, Joanna is now based full-time in New York City, with extensive travel to the MENA region. She also serves as a member on the World Economic Forum's Gender Parity Task Force.

Organization Website: [www.endeavor.org](http://www.endeavor.org)

Personal Websites: <http://twitter.com/JoannaHarries>  
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/joanna-harries/11/891/7a2>



## Jennifer Kushell

*President and Co-founder, YSN*

At 38, Jennifer Kushell, has lead a movement inspiring young people to do more with their lives for two decades. As Co-Founder and President of Young & Successful Media, she has been a relentless advocate for the younger generations, impacting the lives and futures of millions around the world. In 2006, she led her company in launching YSN.com – Your Success Network – an online universe for emerging adults to explore their passions, connect with ambitious others and find opportunities across the globe.

Author of the NY Times Best Seller *Secrets of the Young & Successful*, *The Young Entrepreneur's Edge* and *Solo Para Emprendedores*, she has been called a “guru” of her generation’s entrepreneurial movement by US News & World Report and “The Career Doctor” by Cosmopolitan.

As a corporate consultant and thought leader, Kushell has worked with a wide range of educators, NGOs government agencies, and global corporations. Kushell has helped sculpt numerous programs, promotions, and initiatives targeting students, young professionals and business owners, while increasing the amount of information, resources, and support available both nationally and internationally.

Having started her first small business at the age of 13, by 19, Kushell was on a mission. Frustrated with the lack of support and guidance available for younger people pursuing their first ventures, in 1993 she founded The Young Entrepreneurs Network, one of the first online communities connecting over 10,000 entrepreneurs in 70 countries. From there, her team conducted the first psychographic research study on young entrepreneurs (featured by the Wall Street Journal) and wrote the first advanced entrepreneurship curriculum for high school students.

A founding member of the National Mentoring Partnership, Kushell worked with the founders and top executives of leading youth service organizations to further the reach of mentoring programs throughout the country, establish guidelines for best practices, and increase government funding via new legislation. She has also served on the advisory boards of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), The Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), The National Mentoring Policy Counsel, and Harvard Women in Business. Kushell has been honored with national awards from the National Federation of Independent Business, The US Association of Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and The Kauffman Foundation.

Today, Kushell is committed to ensuring that no driven young person, anywhere in the world, lacks access to opportunity to realize their full potential.

Company Website: [ysn.com](http://ysn.com)

Personal Website: [jenniferkushell.com](http://jenniferkushell.com)

## Shervin Pishevar

*Managing Director, Menlo Ventures*

Shervin Pishevar is a technology entrepreneur, published researcher, startup advisor, and technology incubation expert. He has raised nearly \$50 million in venture funding for his startups, and is the founder and CEO of SGN, one of the leading social and mobile gaming companies. Currently, Shervin is an active angel investor or advisor in such companies as Aardvark, Thread.com, Gowalla, and Kissmetrics.



Previously, Shervin was the founding president and COO of Webs (formerly Freewebs), one of the largest social publishing communities in the world with over 40 million members and growing, with one million members added every 60 days. He has also co-founded such companies as Hotprints to revolutionize the personal printing and direct marketing world and Hyperoffice, a leading SaaS provider for small businesses.

Shervin was a member of the Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) policy working group that helped create the Obama Technology and Innovation Plan. Shervin received his B.A (Interdisciplinary Studies) from the University of California at Berkeley and has completed over a year of graduate course work in Health Economics at the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health with a 4.0 GPA.

Company Website: [www.menloventures.com](http://www.menloventures.com)

Personal Website: [www.shervin.com](http://www.shervin.com)



## **Sami Ben Romdhane**

*Senior Director, Platform infrastructure & Tools at eBay*

Sami is a Tunisian entrepreneur and founder of two startups in the Silicon Valley that were both successfully acquired by Symantec Corp and BEA Systems (now part of Oracle). He is currently a Senior Director of Technology at eBay. His first career was in France working for Winsoft, developer of Mac Software and then joined Apple Computer Europe and was in charge of the Mac Software Development in EMEA region. He was then relocated to

Cupertino, CA, headquarters of Apple Computer to work on portions of the Mac Operating Systems.

He founded his first startup in 1996 in Palo Alto, CA building one the first WYSIWYG HTML editors for Mac sold to Symantec Java division. In 2000 he founded M7 a middleware software company sold in 2005 to BEA Systems. Sami is a well known and respected Tunisian blogger since 2006 that stayed in touch with his country and is a champion of freedom of expression. He also created a Tunisian Twitter aggregator site [tnlabs.org](http://tnlabs.org) that was one of the most popular destinations for Tunisians during the revolution.

Sami graduated from ENSI (Ecole Nationale des sciences de l'informatique) in 1988 with a Masters in CS.

Personal Websites: [www.linkedin.com/in/samibenromdhane](http://www.linkedin.com/in/samibenromdhane)  
[www.samitunis.me](http://www.samitunis.me)

## Wesley David Sine

*Associate Professor of Management and Organizations, Cornell University*



Professor Wesley D. Sine is the J. Thomas Clark Associate Professor in Entrepreneurship and Personal Enterprise and Academic Director of the Institute for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the Johnson Graduate School of Management, Cornell University. Professor Sine studies entrepreneurship and innovation and teaches and consults on these topics. He has lived in and studied entrepreneurs and new ventures in the Middle East, Latin America, and the United States. He explores issues related to new venture founding, growth, and survival, new venture team composition, microenterprise, social movements and the , industry and technology evolution, technology entrepreneurship, and new venture structure and strategy. Professor Sine has studied entrepreneurs in a diverse set of economic sectors and cultural contexts. He has interviewed thousands of entrepreneurs across the globe in multiple sectors including alternative energy, internet, software, beverage, and retail. He is also very interested in microenterprises and those attributes that determine their success. He has spent several years studying small ventures in the Egyptian Delta and has ongoing research on over 10,000 micro enterprises in Latin America.

Professor Sine is an active social entrepreneur and works with entrepreneurs throughout the world to battle poverty and environmental degradation. Professor Sine has also consulted for a variety of organizations including start-ups, fortune 500 companies, and social enterprises.

Professor Sine has published papers in the following journals: Administrative Science Quarterly, Academy of Management Journal, Management Science, Organization Science, Strategic Management Journal, and Research Policy. He is on the editorial board of *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Organization Science*, and the *Academy of Management Review*. He currently is an associate editor at Organization Science and he is the book review editor at Administrative Science Quarterly.

In his spare time, Professor Sine works with villagers in emerging markets (particularly the Middle East and Latin America) who are attempting to escape rural poverty through entrepreneurship. Professor Sine loves to hike, mountain bike, ski, read, and spend time with his children.



## **Driss R. Temsamani**

*Business Intelligence, Analytics and Marketing Region Head  
Latin America and Mexico  
Global Transaction Services, Citi*

Driss Temsamani is Business Intelligence Analytics Director, Senior Vice President of Marketing and a member of the Citigroup Global Transaction Services Latin America and Mexico Executive Committee.

Mr. Temsamani has a 16 years career with Citi, where he started as Senior Business Interface for the Corporate and Consumer Bank. Mr. Temsamani became CIO and Vice President of Strategic Planning for Citigroup e-Business Latin America, a role under which he headed the e-Commerce infrastructure rollout throughout the region and the development of strategic alliance with media, technology and telecommunication companies. Mr. Temsamani was then Business Management Region Head of Global Transaction Services Latin America before assuming his current role.

Mr. Temsamani is a published author, a university guest lecturer and speaker at several industry conferences. His work has been featured in Actualidad Economica, Business News Americas, Los Andes Económico, Business Technology News and Latin Trade.

Mr. Temsamani is Past-President of the Moroccan American Coalition where he was elected in 2008. He is the founder of SOS Morocco, Co-Founder of the Moroccan Foundation and an active member of the Moroccan Diaspora in the United States.

Mr. Temsamani is a member of the American Marketing Association, the International Institute of Finance, the Association for International Businesses, the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the Corporate Strategy Board.

Mr. Temsamani received the Strathmore Who's Who Leadership Millennium Award, the Jerry Goidenberg First Place Award for Direct Marketing and Visionary of the Year Award.

Mr. Temsamani holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration and Industrial Marketing from Columbus University and has continued education from The Center for Creative Leadership, Austral University and the Harvard School of Business.



## US GOVERNMENT DELEGATES



### **Lorraine Hariton**

*Delegation Lead*

*Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs,  
Department of State*

Lorraine Hariton was sworn in as the State Department's Special Representative for Commercial and Business Affairs on September 14, 2009. Her experience in innovation and entrepreneurship provides a unique perspective in addressing our global economic growth challenges. She is responsible for State Department outreach to the business community and commercial advocacy efforts. She works with the business community worldwide to ensure that commercial diplomacy efforts support U.S. foreign policy objectives. Ms. Hariton brings to the State Department more than 25 years of experience in the information technology sector in Silicon Valley. Throughout her business career Ms. Hariton worked with various technologies and products including mainframes, thin-client technology, e-commerce financial infrastructure, internet audio solutions and speech applications. Most recently Hariton worked on Smart Grid initiatives including advanced metering and intelligent street lighting. Ms. Hariton served as President and CEO of Apptera from 2003 to 2005 where she brought their first product to market and raised \$8 million in venture capital. She served as the CEO of Beatnik from 1999 to 2002 where she repositioned the company as a leader in the wireless industry and raised more than \$40 million in venture capital. Ms. Hariton also spent 15 years at IBM serving in a number of executive capacities.

Ms. Hariton is Chairman Emeritus of the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs and Executives, served as Treasurer of the State of California Board of Accountancy, served on the board of the Demand Response Smart Grid Coalition, served on the National Advisory Board of the Stanford Clayman Institute for Gender Research and the Executive Committee of the National Center for Women and Information Technology. Ms. Hariton has an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.S. in Mathematical Sciences from Stanford University.

## Julie Egan

*Delegation Co-lead*

*Economic Advisor, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs,  
Department of State*



Julie Egan is an economic advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs (EEB) at the U.S. Department of State where she manages the U.S. – North Africa Partnership for Economic Opportunity and advises on economic policy and bilateral trade in the Middle East and North Africa. In this capacity she works closely with the National Security Council, the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff, the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and the United States Trade Representative's Office on formulating U.S. foreign economic policy and initiatives towards the Middle East and North Africa. Prior to joining the State Department, Ms. Egan worked for the European Commission in the External Relations Directorate General in Brussels, UNESCO in Paris, Booz Allen Hamilton, and for several micro-finance and business development organizations in Benin, South Africa, Ecuador, Morocco and her hometown Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Egan holds a graduate degree from Columbia University in International Affairs with a regional certificate in Middle Eastern Studies, and a degree in Political Science from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris where she was a Government of France Chateaubriand Fellow. She holds an Honors BA in International Relations and Political Economy from James Madison College at Michigan State University. Ms. Egan conducted doctoral research in Morocco as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar focusing on U.S. foreign economic policy towards the North Africa region (1998-2001) and has lived in Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and France. She is a Term Member at the Council on Foreign Relations.





## **Jacqueline Strasser**

*Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the President, OPIC*

Jacqueline Strasser Higgins has served as OPIC's Deputy Chief of Staff since May 2009. From 2009 to 2010, she also served as Acting Vice President and Chief Financial Officer.

Before joining OPIC, Mrs. Strasser Higgins spent eight years at the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), leading oversight of the budget, policy, programs, and management of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, OPIC, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and various programs at the Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

In 2004, on detail from OMB, Mrs. Strasser Higgins served as principle economic advisor to Iraq's Interim Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Barham Salih, and the Iraqi Ministry of Finance. During her eight months in Baghdad, she helped develop and implement the Iraqi national budget, the first Iraqi treasury bill auctions, and a national investment strategy. Prior to OMB, Mrs. Strasser Higgins worked as an associate for an internet trade finance company in New York, where she designed and managed an asset management and auction platform. She has also worked at the African Development Bank, Technoserve, the Council on Foreign Relations, and Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising.

Mrs. Strasser Higgins served as a Vice-Chair of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) and was a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She holds an M.I.A. in finance and economic development from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a B.A. in Political Science from Colgate University.

## Kathleen Wu

*Economic Growth Officer, USAID*

Ms. Kathleen Wu is an Economic Growth Officer at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). She manages programs that provide a wide range of technical assistance to USAID worldwide related in economic growth. Previously, she was the Deputy Director for the Office of South and Central Asia Affairs at USAID and coordinated President Obama's visit to India to launch a transformational relationship with the country. She also served in USAID/Pakistan, heading the Economic Growth Office in developing/adjusting new economic growth strategies that were adapted to Pakistan's dynamic, complex environment, guiding the \$300 million economic growth portfolio through an incredibly turbulent period.



Ms. Wu was the Chief Risk Officer of USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA) during 1999-2009 and operationalized the risk management functions of that office after the Agency was authorized by Congress to provide and manage credit facilities. In this capacity, she served as USAID's principal advisor on credit risk management with a portfolio of \$3 billion. Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Wu was a U.S. regulator, private-sector consultant, and academic. She has worked in over 60 countries. Her consultations have addressed multiple areas, e.g., enterprise development, financial sector reforms, investment climate evaluation, equity and credit risk analysis, corporate and bank privatization, and trade.